

by Master Sgt. James Varhegyi



**Capt. John Stratton signs a movie poster** at the premier of the new IMAX film "Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag." He served as the star of the film. The movie chronicles his experience as he participates in his first Red Flag exercise. The film made its premier in December at the National Air and Space Museum.

## New IMAX film a first for the Air Force

WASHINGTON — If you've never been part of a Red Flag exercise, you can at least watch the movie.

The IMAX film "Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag" premiered in December at the Smithsonian Museum, Udvar-Hazy Center. The movie is the first large format film to showcase the U.S. Air Force. The film is directed by veteran film maker Stephen Low.

In the new movie, viewers follow Capt. John Stratton, an F-15 Eagle fighter pilot, as he participates in a two-week long Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

A typical exercise pits "friendly"

blue forces against "hostile" red forces in mock combat situations. Blue forces are made up of units from the Air Force and its sister services as well as units from American allies. Red forces are composed of aircrews from Red Flag's adversary tactics division, who fly the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"Fighter Pilot" covers more than just the flying part of a Red Flag. The film also covers those people who put aircraft in the air and those who support the Air Force mission: engine mechanics, crew chiefs, firefighters, and even those who get up early to do the morning "FOD walk."

IMAX films rival the standard movie theater experience in both picture and sound quality. The film itself is about 10 times larger than what is used in a regular movie theater. The extra size means more picture information, which translates to a larger, clearer image on the screen. IMAX movie screens can be up to eight stories tall.

Show locations, information about the film and a five-minute preview are all available online at [www.fighterpilotfilm.com](http://www.fighterpilotfilm.com).

— Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

by Staff Sgt. Quinton Burris



### My chinny chin chin

AVON PARK, Fla. — Senior Airman John Stamper tries to complete his pull-ups during the Dragon Challenge 2004 obstacle course event in December. Dragon Challenge is an annual competition which tests the physical, mental and emotional strength, and endurance of tactical air control party Airmen. Airman Stamper is assigned to the 19th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Campbell, Ky.